

MEDICARE PART D ENROLLMENT ENDS

As of midnight on May 15, the first enrollment in Medicare Part D ended. Today, the Center for Medicare Services stated “CMS is confident that for the first time ever, 90 percent of people with Medicare have some kind of prescription drug coverage.”

As of May 9, in Cobb County, 40,295-eligible Medicare beneficiaries had some form of drug coverage. In the 11th Congressional District, 76% of seniors are now enrolled.

The Cobb Senior Services Department was committed to helping to get the word out about the various options afforded by Medicare Part D. Now that the deadline has come, the Senior-To-Senior Advocacy Team would like to thank those additional volunteers who graciously shared their time and talents to help make the effort possible. “THANK YOU!” goes to several of the Senior Institute Computer Instructors: Bob Lunaberg, Caroline Lappe, Hank Kroft, Pettus Gewin, and Mike Conti. These folks helped the Senior-To-Senior Advocacy Team get the Medicare Part D computer appointments up and running at the Senior Centers—and Mike Conti continued to assist through the May 15, deadline.

“THANK YOU!” to Gail Rogers, and the Cobb County Library System for allowing us to relocate in January to the Computer Classroom at the Central Library, and enabling us to serve more people more efficiently.

“THANK YOU!” to Maravic Beebee for donating her time, talents, and helping provide us with resources such as paper to print the plan comparisons.

“THANK YOU” to Johnny Barfield, Senior Services intern, who, after he completed his internship, continued to assist us with the appointments.

But, more importantly, “THANK YOU!” to all of you—the seniors and their families—who trusted the Senior-To-Senior Advocacy Team to assist you in understanding the various options!

GOVERNOR SIGNS MATTIE’S CALL INTO LAW, STATEWIDE

On Friday, April 21, Governor Sonny Perdue signed the statewide Mattie’s Call into effect. Now, adults with cognitive impairments, Alzheimer’s disease, or dementia now have the additional safety net to help the return home should they wander.

Cobb County adopted Mattie’s Call on February 14—the first county in the country to adopt the program. It was followed shortly by the cities of Powder Springs and Kennesaw adopting the Call. Currently, Cobb’s police officers, sheriff’s deputies, fire, and 911 personnel are being trained as are Powder Springs and Kennesaw police officers.

Cobb Senior Services partnered with the Alzheimer’s Association to provide training to family and professional caregivers and the general public on how

Mattie's Call works, and the benefit it offers to those with Alzheimer's disease and their caregivers.